

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A spindle motor comprising:  
a baseplate;  
a rotor;  
a bearing system, said bearing system further comprising at least one component directly or indirectly electrically connected to said rotor;  
a recess located between said baseplate and said bearing component; and  
at least one solid-state contact element,  
wherein a permanent electro-conductive connection is provided between said baseplate and said bearing component of said bearing system through the exertion of mechanical forces by said solid-state contact element on at least one of said baseplate and said bearing component and wherein said solid-state contact element is accommodated in said recess.
2. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1, wherein said solid-state contact element is positioned between adjoining surfaces of said baseplate and said bearing component.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The spindle motor according to Claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said solid-state contact element is pressed into said recess.

6. (Currently Amended) The spindle motor according to Claim 14, wherein said solid-state contact element is pressed into said bore.

7. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1 wherein said solid-state contact element is a spherical body.

8. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1, wherein said solid-state contact element is a wire-shaped pin.

9. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1, wherein said solid-state contact element is an elastic spring.

10. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1, wherein said solid-state contact element is selected from the group consisting of a coil spring, a leaf spring and an annular spring.

11. (Original) The spindle motor according to Claim 1, wherein said bearing component is a bearing sleeve accommodating said shaft.

12. (Currently Amended) A spindle motor comprising:  
a baseplate;  
a rotor;  
a bearing system, said bearing system further comprising at least one component directly or indirectly electrically connected to said rotor; and  
at least one welding seam,  
wherein said bearing component is a bearing sleeve accommodating said shaft,  
and wherein a permanent electro-conductive connection is provided between said baseplate and said bearing sleeve ~~bearing component~~ of said bearing system through said welding seam.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A spindle motor comprising:

- a baseplate;
- a rotor;
- a bearing system, said bearing system further comprising at least one component directly or indirectly electrically connected to said rotor;
- a bore formed in said baseplate; and
- at least one solid-state contact element,

wherein a permanent electro-conductive connection is provided between said baseplate and said bearing component of said bearing system through the exertion of mechanical forces by said solid-state contact element on at least one of said baseplate and said bearing component and wherein said solid-state contact element is accommodated entirely within said bore.

15. (New) The spindle motor according to Claim 14, wherein said solid-state contact element is a spherical body.

16. (New) The spindle motor according to Claim 14, wherein said solid-state contact element is a wire-shaped pin.

17. (New) The spindle motor according to Claim 14, wherein said solid-state contact element is an elastic spring.

18. (New) The spindle motor according to Claim 14, wherein said solid-state contact element is selected from the group consisting of a coil spring, a leaf spring and an annular spring.